AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 - 46. (Canceled)

47. (New) A breakwater device in which one or more energy absorbers arranged between a plurality of structures having neutral buoyancy are adapted to permanently remove energy from waves by resisting the relative motion of the structures caused by opposing forces which are created between those structures by virtue of the fact that the structures are located in different parts of the irrotational oscillating cycle of the water mass which occurs naturally during the passage of waves.

48. (New) A breakwater device as claimed in claim 47 in which the structures comprise first and second structures, which in use are arranged substantially parallel one to another.

49. (New) A breakwater device according to claim 48 wherein the breakwater device includes a third structure, which in use is arranged substantially parallel to the other two structures.

50. (New) A breakwater device according to claim 49 wherein the distance between the first and second structures is substantially twice the distance between the second and third structures.

51. (New) A breakwater device according to claim 49 wherein the distance between any two of the structures is $(n + \frac{1}{2})\lambda$ where λ is a wavelength of the waves in the particular location where the breakwater is to be deployed and n is zero or a positive integer.

52. (New) A breakwater device according to claim 51 wherein the distance between first and second structures is $\lambda/2$ and λ is the maximum wavelength of waves in that particular location where the breakwater is to be deployed.

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53. (New) A breakwater device according to claim 47 comprising a mechanical interconnection from the first to the second structure, and from the second to the third structure, the interconnections supporting the energy absorbers.

54. (New) A breakwater device according to claim 47 wherein the structures are substantially parallelepiped structures.

55. (New) A breakwater device according to claim 47 wherein the structures are plate-like and plate-like is defined as the ratio between the area of the structure, which is presented to the direction of a wave, and the square of the thickness of the structure, said ratio being greater than 10.

56. (New) A breakwater device as claimed in claim 55 in which said ratio is greater than 20.

57. (New) A breakwater device as claimed in claim 56 in which said ratio is greater than 30.

58. (New) A breakwater device according to claim 55 wherein the height of the plate like structures is less than a half the wavelength ($\lambda/2$) of waves in that particular location where the breakwater is to be deployed.

59. (New) A breakwater device as claimed in claim 58 in which said height is less than ($\lambda/5$) of the waves in that particular location.

60. (New) A breakwater device according to claim 47 wherein the structures are orientated substantially vertically.

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61. (New) An energy absorbing breakwater device according to claim 47 wherein the plate like structures are orientated horizontally from the surface downwards.

62. (New) A breakwater device according to claim 47 in which the or each energy absorber comprises water chokes arranged to squeeze water through a throttle so as to dissipate energy upon relative displacement of the structures.

63. (New) A breakwater device according to claim 47 in which the or each energy absorber comprises an electromagnetic arrangement, sealed inside a suitable waterproof container, configured to generate an electromotive force upon relative displacement of the structures.

64. (New) A breakwater device according to claim 47 in which the or each energy absorber includes rack and pinion arrangements fitted with suitable gears to convert linear to rotating motion.

65. (New) A breakwater device according to claim 47 in which the or each energy absorber comprises a piston and cylinder arrangement so arranged as to act as a dashpot.

66. (New) A breakwater device according to claim 47 in which the or each energy absorber includes a bi-directional piston and cylinder, with a fluid arranged to pass through energy absorbers so as to absorb wave energy when the structures move towards one another as well as away from one another.

67. (New) A breakwater device according to claim 47 wherein the breakwater device, in use, is positioned in a body of water, such as an area of open sea, so that the lengthwise axes of the structures extend substantially parallel to an incident wave front.

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68. (New) A breakwater system comprising a plurality of breakwater devices according to claim 47, said system being capable of maintaining or modifying coastal deposition and/or erosion patterns

69. (New) A method of controlling coastal erosion using the breakwater devices of claim 47.

70. (New) A propulsive device for use in a body of water comprising first and second submerged structures arranged substantially parallel to one another and connected by a strut, the first and second structures both comprising non-return valve arrays, which arrays permit water to flow through the respective array in one direction, both arrays being arranged to be operable in the same direction whereby when the device is orientated generally orthogonal to the incident wavefront with the structures spaced apart by approximately half a wave length of waves in the body of water, the natural irrotational oscillation of the water mass acts in the reverse direction onto the one valve array compared with the other.

71. (New) A propulsive device according to claim 70 wherein the submerged structures are of parallelepiped plate like form.

72. (New) A propulsive device as claimed in claim 70 wherein the structures are orientated substantially vertically.

73. (New) A propulsive device as claimed in claim 70 wherein the valve arrays are arranged such that the direction of irrotational oscillating motion of the water mass closes one array and moves it in that direction carrying the whole assembly with it whilst the reverse irrotation of the water mass acting on the other array opens it and allows the water mass to pass through, with the reverse happening as the wave system passes wherein the first array is opened and the second closed but with the direction of motion of the overall device remaining the same as before.

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74. (New) A propulsive device as claimed in claim 70 wherein both sets of non-return valve arrays are capable of being set to open with the direction of the oncoming wave crests whereby propulsion is achieved in the reverse direction through the closing of the non-return valve array in the trough by the reverse irrotational oscillating motion occurring in that part of the water mass moving the whole assembly against the direction of the waves.

75. (New) A propulsive device as claimed in claim 70 in which both sets of non-return valves are arranged to be set to close with the direction of the oncoming wave crests wherein propulsion is achieved in the same direction as the wave crests and the non-return valves open in the wave troughs to allow the reverse oscillating mass to pass through.

76. (New) A propulsive device as claimed in claim 70 comprising control means adapted to change the direction of operation of the non-return valves so as to change the direction of propulsion of the assembly whilst in operation.

77. (New) A propulsive device as claimed in claim 70 which is fitted with rudders to enable the device to "tack" at an angle into or with the direction of the waves.

78. (New) A propulsive device as claimed in claim 76 in which the strut is of adjustable length, and wherein said control means is arranged to be operable independently on one structure with respect to the other so as to enable opposing motion of the structures to be achieved by wave force to adjust the strut for matching the nominal spacing of the structures to changing wave lengths whilst in operation.

79. (New) A propulsive device as claimed in claim 70 comprising an energy absorbing device associated with the strut and operable to extract energy.

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80. (New) A propulsion device as claimed in claim 79 in which the energy absorbing device is arranged to power an additional propeller type propulsion means.

81. (New) A propulsive device according to claim 70 wherein the plate like structures are both horizontally orientated from the surface downwards.

82. (New) A propulsive device according to claim 70 wherein the device comprises a third structure parallel with but spaced from the first and second structures.

83. (New) A propulsive device according to claim 82 wherein the third structure is adjustable relative to the other two.

84. (New) A propulsion device according to claim 70 wherein the non-return valves are louver type valves.

85. (New) A method of using a propulsive device as claimed in claim 70 wherein the propulsive forces produced are used to provide a static or moving force with, against or at an angle to the prevailing waves.

86. (New) A method of using a propulsive device as claimed in claim 70 wherein the forces are used for towing.

87. (New) A method of using a propulsive device as claimed in claim 86 wherein the energy absorbed in creating the forces and motions is used to form a calm area of sea behind the device.

88. (New) A multi-hulled vessel comprising at least two hulls which are connected by a sliding or calliper type link wherein the hulls can move away and towards each other whilst remaining connected and mainly parallel to each other.

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89. (New) A vessel as claimed in claim 88 wherein the available relative motion between the hulls is large enough to accommodate the differential motion created by different parts of the irrotational oscillating mass of water that one hull is located in, in relation to the other, during the passage of the craft through the waves thereby preventing large sideways forces being applied to the hulls by the irrotating water masses.

90. (New) A vessel as claimed in claim 88 wherein an energy absorbing device operable by virtue of the differential forces and motions which can occur between the hulls, is arranged to extract energy which can be used to propel the craft generally in the fore and aft directions of the hulls using propellers or other mechanical means.

91. (New) A device as claimed in any preceding claims 47, 70, or 88 in which the connecting means between the floating structures or hulls is used to measure wave length, height or period and/or provide a stabilized platform for equipment or personnel.

92. (New) A protection means for long vessels, which straddle in a diagonal way more than one wave, comprising horizontal differential articulation or double articulation of the structure along its length to accommodate the different irrotational patterns occurring in the water mass in different parts of the wave system.

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